



PRESIDENT AHMED HASSAN AL-BAKR

*Zionist Racism is
Regressing*



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**President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr:-
Racist Zionism is
Regressing**

INTRODUCTION

An international symposium on zionism was held in Baghdad from 8-12 November, 1976. The symposium was attended by 300 intellectuals including scientists, professors and journalists representing 46 states and international organizations.

38 papers covering the ideological, political and psychological aspects of zionism were discussed in the symposium. They also dealt with the connection of zionism with imperialism and the hazards that racist zionism causes to world peace and security.

The symposium has realized a visible and tangible success in exposing the racist character of the Zionist movement and in extending the call for facing it and encountering its dangers and aggressiveness. This is certainly a big achievement to be added to the world condemnation of the racist zionism incarnated in the UN General Assembly resolution 3379 of November 10, 1975.

President Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr's inaugural speech delivered on his behalf by Mr. Saddam Hussein, Revolution Command Council Vice-Chairman, has been of significant importance for the ideological and

political meanings it contained. The speech explained the true essence of zionism. The President reaffirmed that "in our world today there exists no greater evil than that of racism in all its regenerating and advanced phenomenological forms. Racism stands as an impediment to the rising and struggling nations and peoples which have suffered long under colonialism, backwardness, exploitation and fragmentation." He also warned against risks arising from racial practices emphasising that "there is no experience like zionism, both in theory and in practice, which is more repleted with negative aspects of racism, or more dangerous as menace to the Arab destiny, world peace and universal civilization".

The speech was an important indicator to identify the expansionist and aggressive effects of racist zionism on Arab nation and the world and to define the proper means of continuing Arab and international struggle. It also laid down the effective methods of inflicting defeat on the Zionist theory and practice for the benefit of the whole of mankind and in the interests of peace and security within the Arab homeland.

President Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr

Racist Zionism is Regressing

**Text of the Speech of his Excellency
Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr on the occasion of the Opening Session of the
International Symposium on Zionism
held in Baghdad on 8th. November,
1976.**

**Honorable Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are indeed very happy to welcome you to this country which has championed the causes of humanity ever since the early days of human civilization. We highly appreciate your participation in this International Symposium on Zionism as a Racist Phenomenon and are aware of its historic significance. At the same time we acknowledge the pre-eminent initiative undertaken by the Baghdad University in helping to bring it about.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We express our sincere welcome to you here on Iraqi soil, the cradle of civilization, and would hope to be inspired by this country's history which has given the world living images regarding human greatness and man's ability to transcend his existential limitations, so that we might be better prepared to confront the future of mankind and to combat the multifarious phenomena which menace the destiny of man.

In our world today there exists no greater evil than that of racism in all its regenerating and advanced phenomenological forms. Racism stands as an impediment to the resurgent and struggling people and nations which have suffered long under colonialism, backwardness, exploitation and fragmentation.

There is no experience like Zionism, both in theory and in practice, which is more replete with the negative aspects of racism, or more dangerous as a menace to the Arab world peace and universal civilization.

You, as a distinguished group of scholars, have come from various parts of the world to participate in this Symposium. Embodying, as you do, the thought and conscience of humanity, you are able to provide the struggle of the world against racism with new and more effective weapons. For there is nothing like sharpness of thought and advanced understanding which can equip the struggling masses of the world and our Arab people in Palestine and in the rest of the Arab world with greater ability to confront the racist phenomenon, to abort its conspi-

racies and to uncover its true character and dangers.

Doubtless, the United Nations resolution determining that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination, came as a reflection of a significant evolution in the world's consciousness regarding the truth about Zionism and as an awakening of the conscience of mankind which constitute a new spring-board towards yet a higher level of facing up to the racist Zionist hegemony and to all forms of racism in the world today.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the United Nations resolution, we hail the world organization, which has recaptured the spirit of its Charter and its mission through the adoption of that resolution, thus placing before the world the task of the pursuit of that road up to its very end, in order to uproot racism from every part of the world.

Many lessons can be drawn from Arab history. The Arab homeland had witnessed waves of invasions, all of which were based on racism be they religious, national or both, in addition to the traditional colonial wave. Yet, they were all doomed to failure for one

single reason. It was because the Arab nation felt, while fighting against those invasions, that it was charged with an historical and human responsibility, which was part of its cultural mission. The Arabs did not face racism with racism, or fight evil with evil means. Rather, they achieved victory over racism by sheer endurance and resistance through which they preserved their existence, and by eliminating the points of inner weakness, which were exploited by the enemy and lastly by self-renewal through the progressive revolutionary values which it upheld in the struggle against the racism of the invaders. The Arab nation achieved victory by the struggle which was intertwined with the values of justice, equality and peace.

Present day Iraq, the Iraq of the July 17th Revolution, in continuing the pursuit of that mission, and following in the same steps of the Arab regeneration of the past, and acting in consonance with the needs of contemporary Arab renaissance, coalescing with the progressive march of humanity, striving to raise the confrontation with the racist Zionist challenge to its proper intellectual

level which is apt to put an end to misleading, distortion and falsification of truth, and drawing the decisive separating lines between the humanism of Arab nationalism and the racism of Zionism.

The Arabs in history were not only against racism, but were also in the forefront of these striving against it, and the most responsive to the call of humanity. Thus, the Arabs must be today, tomorrow, and in the future, the upholders of justice and the messengers of civilization.

We, in this struggling Arab country, are well aware of the importance of thought in revolutions, and of the importance of commitment to human values as an inseparable part of the activity of militant thought. Hence, ever since the early days of our revolution, we have seen to the uprooting of all the colonial days, which used to nurture racist sentiments. We have achieved on this land peace and concord between the Arab nationality, the Kurdish nationality and the national minorities, as well as the cultural rights of those who speak the old Syriac language. All this took place with due regard to the materiali-

zation of a future envisaging the provision of a common ground for a joint struggle waged by those human groups, in order to save Iraq from the racist marauders.

Furthermore, a decision was taken by the Revolutionary Command Council inviting back the Iraqi Jews who had left Iraq under Zionist pressure and intrigue, and under the anomalous conditions created in the area, ever since the gaining by Zionism of a foothold in Palestine, with the active support of imperialism and the racist forces everywhere. That decision was an expression of the human and cultural motives which bind us to the history of our nation, and which not only differentiate between Zionism and Judaism, but views the Arab Jews in the first place, and all Jews who are not committed to the Zionist ideology, as victims of Zionism.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our honoured guests:

While we reiterate our welcome to you, we would like to express the hope that you will truly enjoy your visit to Iraq, and that you will feel, through the ideas and occa-

sions involved in the programme of the Symposium, the real spirit which lies behind the various aspects of life, activity and thinking in this country, the earnest Arab spirit, which draws inspiration from the spirit of civilization in our ancient history, and looks forward to a future where all races and religions may live in peace and amity in Palestine, within a framework of a universal Arab unity, embracing the entire Arab homeland, and providing for that homeland progress and prosperity.

The aim is the motive force behind our struggle today to eradicate racism. We feel all the more propelled towards the attainment of that aim whenever we see the tragedy increasing in scope and intensity, as a result of the extension of the Zionist racist plans to other parts of the Arab land. What we nowadays witness in Lebanon in the form of an artificial resuscitation of anti-Arab, sectarian, racist tendencies, and of unrelenting attempts to implant racialism, intrigue and divisiveness in the Arab homeland, is but a device to achieve a settlement in the area, in a way justifying the racist existence in Palestine, on the basis of the universaliza-

tion of racism and making it a way of life and the formula of relationship among human beings, that is, in a form running counter to the very nature of life and development towards unity, liberty and socialism in this area, and demolishing the cultural significance of contemporary Arab Renaissance.

After all this dire suffering from the evils of racism, what could be a better cause for optimism than the newly emerged positive aspects of which your symposium is one ? There is a cogent reason for viewing those positive manifestations in their true historical perspective, which asserts the need for an ever growing role of militant thinkers in leading the struggle against all forms of racism, with the Zionist phenomenon in the forefront of such forms, and for taking the initiative to promote any activity which is of direct concern to humanity and on which hinges the destiny of progress, justice and peace in the world.

We pin our faith on you, and wish this symposium a great success and an intellectual incandescence reaching beyond its pre-

sent limits of time and place. This is because your conference serves the cause of justice and peace and charts the path to the elimination of racism, using in the process the weapons of knowledge, virtue and love, which constitute the basic tools of the struggle consoning with the logic of our time and with the noble, human objective to whose achievement you aspire.

Thank you.

Baghdad - Iraq
1976

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